

U.S.S.N. 10/057,081

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REMARKS

This Response is filed in Response to the Examiner's request for an Interview Summary Pursuant to MPEP 713.04. This Summary was inadvertently left off the Applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed November 26, 2003.

In the Advisory Action mailed October 16, 2003, Claims 8-21, 23, 25-31, 33 and 35-55 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,535) in view of Tate (Japanese Patent No. 61035868) and further in view of Malaczynski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,927) and further in view of Potter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,261). In addition, claims 24 and 32 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,535) in view of Tate (Japanese Patent No. 61035868) and further in view of Malaczynski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,927) and further in view of Potter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,261) and further in view of Kohler (U.S. Patent No. 5,286,534) and further in view of Mahoney (U.S. Patent No. 6,082,962). Finally, claims 22 and 34 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,535) in view of Tate (Japanese Patent No. 61035868) and further in view of Malaczynski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,927) and further in view of Potter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,261) and further in view of Naik (U.S. Patent No. 4,919,773).

On November 21, 2003, a Telephonic Interview was conducted between the Examiner and Steven W. Hays (Attorney of Record), Timothy J. Potter and Aaron Fiala (Inventors) on the above-entitled matter. In this Interview, claims 8, 14, 15 and 22 were discussed in conjunction with 2 pieces of prior art (the Tate and Garg references). In this discussion, Applicants reiterated their position that applying a wear resistant coating was not the equivalent of the nitriding treatment as taught in the Tate reference. Applicants also discussed that the Garg reference required a noble intermediate layer applied between the wear resistant coating and the substrate layer, and further that the